



DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Robert Menendez, Chairman
James E. Clyburn, Vice Chair

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 24, 2004

CONTACT: Andrew Kauders, 202-226-3210

MENENDEZ, DEMOCRATIC LEADERS DECRY REPUBLICAN BUDGET ***GOP budget wrong for America***

WASHINGTON, DC -- House Democratic Caucus Chairman Bob Menendez (D-NJ) today joined Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer (D-MD), and Ranking Democrat on the House Budget Committee John Spratt (D-SC) to discuss the Republican Budget and its wrong priorities during a press conference following the weekly Democratic Caucus meeting. Menendez issued the following statement:

“The arrogance of this Republican budget, similar to the president’s, goes well beyond the arrogance of absolute power. This budget delves into uncharted depths of ignorance and wrong priorities when it abandons our children’s education, our parents’, grandparents’ and veterans’ health care, our homeland security and our precious environment.

“It’s as if this Republican-led Congress has joined the Bush administration’s mantra of ‘staying the course’ in the face of certain fiscal disaster just as long as they do not have to take responsibility for turning record surpluses into record deficits, record job creation into record job loss, and strong environmental laws into total and willing acquiescence in the face of industry pressure.

“How much longer will they choose to blame everything and everyone but themselves and their policy priorities for this economic mess?

“This Republican Congress, under the direction and leadership of President Bush, has presented a budget that is long on promises, short on compromise, and ever-so eager to forgo our children’s education, senior’s health, military benefits, economic opportunity, and homeland security just as long as their reckless tax cuts for the wealthy can stand.

“It is an outrage, and it is our duty to bring these wrong priorities for America to the light of day. We Democrats will not stand for it, and we know that the American public will not stand for it.”

###